In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling interoperability of members of a cluster, comprising:

creating a version control system including a disk header record of a shared resource and a version control record within said shared resource, said version control record to organize meta data in a known location in said a shared resource in communication with said cluster, said version control record comprising all versions of each type of data structure in said shared resource; and

validating software compatibility of a new cluster member with storage media in said shared resource assigned to the cluster separately using the disk header record and the version control record prior to a new cluster member joining said cluster.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising scanning a data structure type record within said shared resource prior to accessing said version control record.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of validating software compatibility of said new cluster member includes scanning said version control record for a data structure version conflict.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining a table within said version control record of an operating software version of each node in said cluster.

5. (Original)   The method of claim 4, further comprising validating compatibility of each node in said cluster with said operating software version table prior to upgrading each data structure in said shared resource.

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6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the step of validating compatibility of each of
said nodes in said cluster is inclusive of inactive cluster nodes.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said shared resource is selected from a group
consisting of: a storage area network, and shared memory.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

at least two nodes adapted to operate in a computer cluster;

a version control system having a disk header record <u>of a shared resource</u> and a version
control record<u> within said shared resource</u>, said version control record to organize meta data in a
known location in a̶ <u>said </u>shared resource in communication with said cluster;

said version control record inclusive of all versions of each type of data structure in said
shared resource; and

a membership manager adapted to validate compatibility of a new cluster member with
each of said data structure with use of said <u>disk header record and said </u>version control record
prior to acceptance of said new cluster member.

9. (Original)   The system of claim 8, further comprising an operating software version table
within said version control record.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a validation manager adapted to
validate compatibility of an existing cluster member with said operating software version
table prior to an upgrade of each data structure in said shared storage.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said validation manager is inclusive of inactive
cluster nodes.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a version manager adapted to scan a
data structure type record within said shared resource prior to access of said version

control record by a cluster member.

13.   Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended)   An article comprising:

a computer-readable recordable data storage medium including instructions comprising:~

instructions to provide a version control system including a disk header record <u>of a shared resource</u> and a version control record <u>of said shared resource</u>, said version control record to organize meta data in a known location in a <u>said</u> shared resource, said version control record inclusive of each type of data structure in said shared resource; and

instructions to validate compatibility of a new cluster member with storage media in said shared resource assigned to a cluster <u>separately</u> using said <u>disk header record and said</u> version control record prior to said new cluster member joining said cluster.

15.   Canceled

16. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, further comprising instructions to validate compatibility of each cluster member prior to upgrading each data structure in said shared resource.

17. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein said compatibility validation means is an operating software version table within said version control record.

18. (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein said compatibility validation means includes inactive cluster nodes.

19. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, further comprising instructions to scan a data structure type record prior to access of said version control record.

20. (Cancel)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of validating software compatibility of said new cluster member with storage media includes determining if said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said membership manager determines if said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein the instructions to validating software compatibility of said new cluster member with storage media includes instructions to determine if said header record of a master disk in said shared resource is compatible with software operating in the new cluster member.